

SUNRAYCE 99

**HON. MATT SALMON**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 1999*

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to sponsor the House version of the resolution that will permit the organizers of Sunrayce 99 to sponsor a public event, with solar-powered cars, on the Capitol Grounds on June 20, 1999, or on such other dates as the speaker of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate may jointly designate, to conduct opening ceremonies for Sunrayce 99. Senator ALLARD has introduced the Senate version (S. Con. Res. 13).

As the Chairman and co-founder of the House Renewable Energy Caucus I appreciate the innovation necessary to identify and utilize alternative forms of energy. As we move into the 20th Century, one of the critical environmental challenges facing us is the need to discover the possibilities of sustainable energy development, so that our children, and their families will be able to enjoy the clean air and environment that is so important to the health of our nation.

From June 20 to 29, 1999, the world will watch as up to 40 teams participate in Sunrayce 99 and demonstrate good-spirited competition and innovation at its best. The teams will race through five states, from the start in Washington, DC, to the finish at Epcot at Walt Disney World Resort near Orlando, FL in the nation's premier solar powered vehicle event.

Sunrayce 99 showcases the imagination, ingenuity and teamwork of graduate and undergraduate teams from North America in the development of highly efficient vehicles powered solely by a viable, renewable and sustainable energy source—the sun. I am proud to note that the University of Arizona has registered a team. General Motors, Electronic Data Systems along with the U.S. Department of Energy are the sponsors of this biennial inter-collegiate competition.

The top three finishing teams will receive trophies and cash awards. Scholarship achievement awards will also be granted for technical innovation, engineering excellence, artistic talents, teamwork and good sportsmanship.

Sunrayce 99 not only demonstrates the possibilities of sustainable energy development, but also the importance of public/private partnerships. This approach will allow companies to work hand in hand with government in successfully tackling the environmental challenges ahead. I applaud the participants of Sunrayce 99—sponsors, applicants, universities, and administrators—for making innovation a reality.

## THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

**HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 1999*

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade & Cultural Committee's 24th Annual St. Patrick's

Day Parade, the second largest St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York State.

This parade is not only a festive happening, it is a chance for all of us in New York City to celebrate and pay tribute to Irish culture.

This year's honorees represent the best of what our City's political, educational and religious leaders have to offer.

Grand Marshal Geraldine D. Chapey is a member of the New York State Board of Regents and is the past President of Community School Board 27. Fellow Grand Marshal Chief Bernard (Buddy) Sullivan is the founder of the "New York Sanitation, Emerald Society, Pipe and Drum Band" and an active member of the New York City Department of Sanitation Emerald Society.

Honorary Grand Marshal Monsignor Martin T. Geraghty has served as the pastor of St. Francis de Sales parish since 1988. Fellow Honorary Grand Marshal Janet Timlin Fash is the president of the Rockaway Action Committee and works as a media teacher for Community School District 27.

The Parade's seven Deputy Grand Marshals, Harold Rochelle, J.P. Farrell, Frances Sheehan, William W. Whelan, Margaret Clarke Keating, Ann Barbera and Senator A. Waldon, Jr. have each devoted themselves to making the Rockaways a better place to live by helping their friends and neighbors regardless of the circumstances.

Parade Founder and Chairman James Conway Sullivan and Vice Chairman Michael A. Benn have consistently been recognized for their efforts at bringing together New York's Irish-American community. Through their dedicated efforts, they have helped to improve my constituents quality of life.

Each of today's honorees have long been known as innovators and beacons of good will to all those they come into contact with. In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations on their being honored by Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade & Cultural Committee.

## WTOP RADIO'S 30 YEARS OF NEWS

**HON. JAMES P. MORAN**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 1999*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, today marks the 30th anniversary for WTOP Radio as an all-news station in Washington.

Since 1969, WTOP has been a prime source of information on major news events. From Watergate to the House impeachment and Senate trial of President Clinton, WTOP has led the way in providing up-to-the-minute news to area residents.

From the turmoil of the late Vietnam era through the continuing disruption in the Middle East, WTOP has presented comprehensive, accurate, and timely news coverage.

Traffic, weather, and sports are part of the news cycle as well, and all are featured in WTOP's extensive reporting.

Congressional activity is a major source of news on WTOP, and Congressional Correspondent Dave McConnell is a well-known and well-respected presence who reports daily on his Today on the Hill broadcasts, often talking directly to members about issues and de-

velopments. His is clearly the most professional and reliable source of Capitol Hill news available to the Washington area—even for us members.

I ask the House to join me in recognizing WTOP's valuable contribution to the greater Washington area over the last 30 years, and in my hope that the station will continue to provide us with around-the-clock news for many years to come.

## SPEECH OF RON RANKIN

**HON. HELEN CHENOWETH**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 1999*

Mrs. CHENOWETH. Mr. Speaker, it is clear through the writings of our Founding Fathers that the freedom of religion and a belief in God was essential to the prosperity of this great nation.

The Declaration of Independence framed our country's political and legal systems and a strong reliance and recognition of God because it acknowledged that we "are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights . . .". Furthermore, Article VI of the Constitution states, ". . . but no religious test shall ever be required as a Qualification to any Office or public Trust under the United States." Additionally, the First Amendment prohibits the federal government from the "establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Ron Rankin, a Kootenai County Commissioner from Ceour d' Alene, Idaho delivered a powerful speech embodying these principles on November 28, 1998. I urge all my colleagues to read Mr. Rankin's words to see how much we need God's guidance in today's world:

Our prisons are full. Our jails are full. Crime is rampant in our streets. Our children's minds are corrupted by the media and their bodies by drugs. The cost of criminal justice is sapping our tax dollars to the extent that we are using funds better spent on education just to maintain our detention and correction facilities to protect our families from criminals.

In spite of these indisputable facts, 26 states and numerous counties and cities that have passed resolutions supporting "Read Your Bible Week" in an effort to encourage people to return to the moral absolutes contained therein, are now being challenged in court.

The American Civil Liberties Union and their liberal supporters are determined to protect us—not from criminals but from "God", claiming a separation of church and state clause that does not exist in the Constitution—that glorious standard written by men raised up by God unto that very purpose.

On July 4th, 1776, there was, signed in the city of Philadelphia, one of America's historic documents which preceded the divinely inspired Constitution—The Declaration of Independence. It marked the birth of this nation, which, under God, was destined to be the cradle of freedom.

We often forget that in declaring independence from an earthly power, our forefathers made a forthright Declaration of Dependence upon Almighty God. The closing words of this great document solemnly declare "With a firm reliance on the protection of providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives—our fortunes—and our sacred honor".